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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Extension Service  
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TO ALL STATE DIRECTORS OF EXTENSION:

Subject: Current Farm Labor News - #25

North Carolina Gets Results. On September 9, Barnard Joy and C. W. E. Pittman of this office, and Walter Erb and John H. Foy of the federal USES office attended a meeting which Fred Sloan, State F/L supervisor of North Carolina had called at Raleigh, for the county agents and labor assistants in counties that employ Atlantic Coast migrants. There was unanimous agreement that the Carolina program of selective recruitment of migratory crews and the limiting of numbers to those actually needed and to housing available had been even more successful than had been hoped. Very few uninvited crews appeared, and many farmers were quoted as expressing the opinion that selective recruitment had eliminated many undesirables and had effected a marked rise in the general level of worker efficiency. From the workers' viewpoint holding the number of migrants down to actual need not only assured housing for all but gave each worker more working days. In 1946, without this selective recruitment of crews by invitation, each worker was used 57 percent of the days he was in the area. This year he worked 84 percent. Operations in North Carolina seem to demonstrate the feasibility of guiding migration at the source with a great degree of effectiveness.

Collier's Observes and Reports on Migratory Labor. Extension F/L people and others who have been active in, or close to work done during the past four years for the benefit of workers as well as employers in the migratory labor movements, will be interested in the reactions of an outside observer as reflected in a series of articles appearing in Collier's ("Heartless Harvest" by Howard Whitman, September 13 and 20). In gathering material, Mr. Whitman interviewed Department of Labor and Department of Agriculture personnel in Washington, traveled 9,000 miles in 17 states and worked with migratory labor crews.

Commenting on the child care center and summer school operated at Freehold, N.J. by the Migrant Commission of the State Department of Labor, State Supervisor Jack Taylor writes in his 'Emergency Farm Labor News': "It's a step in the right direction. It's a long time program that means better workers for New Jersey farms. It deserves 100% cooperation from growers. It should be expanded in the years ahead to take in more areas."

In Ohio a state wide committee has been organized to develop a long time welfare program for migrant workers in Ohio. It results, State Supervisor Dowdy reports, from "cooperative liaison work developed over the past two years between the Extension Services of Texas and Ohio." The committee includes representatives of Ohio Council of Churches, Catholic Diocese of Toledo, Ohio Canners Association of Sugarbeet Refiners, Beet Employers' Committee, county Extension agents, Texas Extension Service, Texas-Mexican workers and the Toledo press. The program includes education work in better housing and sanitation, development of better community acceptance of migrant workers and enlarged recreational, educational and religious opportunities.



Arizona Farm Labor information stations, State Supervisor Young says in his weekly 'El Anunciador', are "prepared to accommodate all cotton pickers who may wend their way toward Arizona this fall. Facilities have been improved and made more accessible. Workers can stay overnight, clean up, enjoy a hot meal and receive current information about job opportunities over most of the U. S."

Have recently received a copy of an excellent letter sent to all county Farm Labor supervisors by John J. McElroy, State F/L Supervisor in California with instructions and outline for making 1947 Annual Report. It says: "Please submit your statistical and narrative report ten days prior to the liquidation of the farm labor program in your county. You will have received your notice of closing dates for the program in your county". This year with many county offices closing earlier than in former years and with personnel shifting to other jobs, it is highly important that prompt and complete reports on the 1947 program are made by the persons conducting the local programs and that they be made at a time sufficiently early to permit the preparation of state and national summaries.

John D. Hervey, assistant chief, Recruitment and Placement Division, who attended part of the 19th annual sessions of the American Institute of Cooperation at the Colorado A. and M. College, Fort Collins, Colorado, reports that cooperative leaders, agricultural college people and others whom he met were unaware of the extent and importance of the services which farm labor cooperatives have rendered.....Fall harvest labor needs are large in the sugarbeet areas of the mountain states and in the cotton areas of the Mississippi Delta, visited by Mr. Hervey. Extension farm labor area directors and State supervisors have developed aggressive programs to recruit adequate harvest labor from domestic sources, which will be supplemented by such foreign contract labor as is now available. Some farmers in the areas of Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri now affected by the dry weather are seeking outside employment.

In Maryland, 'Al' Krewatch has been designated as state F/L supervisor, to succeed Paul E. Nystrom, deputy director in charge of the program since its inception. Paul, as recently announced in Director M. L. Wilson's news letter, has been granted a year's leave of absence to do graduate work at Harvard University. In completing the liquidation of the emergency F/L program, Krewatch will have the assistance of W. A. Sherman. The shift in responsibilities was effective September 15.

Directors Anderson of Colorado and Fry of Pennsylvania and State Farm Labor Supervisor Dowdy of Ohio were among recently visitors at this office.

Yours very truly,

*Barnard Joy*

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Farm Labor Program

cc: State supervisor

